



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

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## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Contact: Carol Singleton  
916.255.6578  
Ron Baker  
916.324.3142

### **DTSC to recognize AAA for pollution prevention accomplishments**

SACRAMENTO – In an effort to promote pollution prevention, the Director of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Maureen Gorsen, will recognize the Automobile Association of American (AAA), Northern California for its commitment to environmental stewardship.

The event will take place at Car Care Plus, a AAA-owned auto repair shop, 49 Bicentennial Circle in Sacramento, on Monday, October 16 at 10:15 a.m. Attendees will be given a tour of the repair facility, which was designed with pollution prevention in mind.

“Protecting and preserving California's environment is very important to Gov. Schwarzenegger. I want to congratulate AAA of Northern California for its tremendous efforts to prevent pollution,” said Gorsen. “In designing Car Care Plus, AAA did an innovative thing; they brought in experts from DTSC to help them design the facility to be environmentally friendly. The design enables them to cut down on the generation of hazardous waste and protects workers and the environment from exposure to toxic substances,” she added.

In addition to its Car Care Plus facility in Sacramento, AAA has partnered with DTSC to help certify other auto repair shops in its Approved Auto Repair network throughout Northern California as P2 Model Shops. DTSC's P2 Model Shop Program was developed in 2000 as a result of SB 1916, the Source Reduction Act. Its goal was to help the automotive repair industry incorporate products and processes that reduce the generation of hazardous waste, cut business costs, and increase productivity and worker safety.

DTSC provides consultation, training, and a variety of resource materials to help shops established safer, cleaner practices.

AAA has also demonstrated its commitment to environmental responsibility with its Greenlight™ Initiative, a program that seeks to help build awareness about new alternative fuels and vehicles and encourage the development of transportation choices. Recently, AAA of Northern California sponsored a Greenlight™ Initiative Rally that featured more than a dozen alternative fuel vehicles. The rally participants showcased the latest in alternative fuel technology, including cars powered by hydrogen fuel cells, biodiesel, natural gas, plug-in hybrid, electricity and propane.

“The ‘greening’ of business and industry is gaining momentum,” said Gorsen. “More and more companies are seeing that environmental stewardship is not only good for our planet but good for business as well.”

For more information, call Carol Singleton at 916.275.4398 or visit the DTSC Web site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

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### **Impacts of P2 Model Shop Program**

**For a 2-4 service bay auto repair shop, implementing our pollution prevention training results on an annualized basis:**

- Elimination of 96 gallons of volatile organic compounds. When these chemicals are used by auto shops, some VOCs evaporate and cause air pollution, the rest are recycled or treated as hazardous waste.
- Elimination of 10 gallons of chlorinated solvents not purchased. Where these are used these generate hazardous waste and pose a health risk to workers.
- Elimination of 500 pounds of absorbent materials such as kitty litter not purchased and not being disposed of, once contaminated, in our landfills.
- 5,280 gallons less polluted run-off going into the storm drains, our creeks and rivers, bays and oceans. Almost half an average swimming pool worth of water polluted with oil and grease and antifreeze.

**Potential environmental results on an annualized basis for 500 California State Automobile Association (CSAA) Approved Auto Care shops, implementing our pollution prevention training:**

- 235,000 gallons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) not purchased. When these chemicals are used by auto shops, some VOCs evaporate and cause air pollution, the rest are recycled or treated as hazardous waste. (Enough to fill eleven large swimming pools.)
- 15,000 gallons of chlorinated solvents not purchased. (Enough to fill over 50 hot tubs.)
- 13,000,000 gallons of less polluted run-off going into the storm drains, creeks, rivers, and ocean.
- 750 tons of absorbent materials such as kitty litter not purchased and not being disposed of in our landfills. (It would take 750 pick up truck loads to get all this kitty litter to the dump.)
- 17,500 gallons of oil not needing to be extracted from the litter or being sent to a land fill.
- 3,300 fewer employees exposed to chemicals that may pose health risks.

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***The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.***



DTSC Director, Maureen Gorsen and Mark Woods, General Manager, AAA-Northern California



Mark Woods, General Manager, AAA-Northern California, DTSC Director, Maureen Gorsen and Stan Phillippe, Chief, Office of Pollution Prevention and Technology Development (DTSC)